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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: OREP, PREL, NU, HO--  
 SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MURRAY VISITS THE RESISTANCE

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: MARK MURRAY, HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS STAFFER VISITED HONDURAS. AFTER VISITING RESISTANCE PERSONNEL ALONG THE BORDER AND IN TEGUCIGALPA, MURRAY EXPRESSED TO ERN AND MISSION OFFICERS SUPPORT FOR THE CASH-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM CURRENTLY BEING ADMINISTERED BY TFHA/H. END SUMMARY.

3. ON OCTOBER 25, 1988, MR. MURRAY TRAVELLED BY TFHA HELICOPTER TO RESISTANCE FIELD LOCATIONS AT YAMALES, BOCAY AND BANCO GRANDE. MURRAY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ERN/N CHIEF-OF-STAFF QUICHE, A TFHA OFFICER AND AN EMBASSY SLO TFFICER. AT YAMALES, THE GROUP VISITED AN ERN/N MEDICAL FACILITY AND THE ERN/N GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS.

4. AT SAN ANDRES DE BOCAY, MURRAY WAS SHOWN RESISTANCE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS. AT BANCO GRANDE ON THE COCO RIVER, MURRAY MET WITH TWO GROUPS OF ERN/N COMBATANTS WHO WERE PREPARING TO CROSS INTO NICARAGUAN TERRITORY. BOTH GROUPS WERE CARRYING CORDOBAS TO RESISTANCE COMBATANTS INSIDE NICARAGUA.R

5. IN TEGUCIGALPA, MURRAY MET WITH ENRIQUE BERMUDEZ AND A GROUP OF RESISTANCE COMMANDERS. CONVERSATION FOCUSED ON THE CORDOBAS/CASH-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM. MURRAY TOLD THE GROUP THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE ERN/N DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA. HE SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE VITAL ROLE OF THE CASH-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM IN FULFILLING THIS DESIRE. HE SAID AID'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM HAD BEEN ADMIRABLE. AFTER VISITING WITH TFHA OFFICIALS, HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE PROGRAM WAS "WELL AUDITTED AND RUNNING WELL."

6. RESISTANCE COMMANDERS SPOKE OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE PROGRAM. THEY EXPRESSED FAMILIAR COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO PAY OLD ERN/N DEBTS. THEY ALSO MENTIONED ADMINISTRATIVE DELIVERY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH TFHA IS FORCED TO SUPPLY CORDOBAS TO THE

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RESISTANCE (30-DAY LIMIT). MURRAY PLEDGED TO WORK ON THE HILL TO SEE IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS.

7. ALL MEETINGS WERE FRANK BUT CORDIAL. RESISTANCE PERSONNEL SEEMED TO BE PLEASED WITH MURRAY'S CANDOR. MURRAY CLOSED HIS MEETING WITH BERMUDEZ BY EXPRESSING SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED LETHAL AID, BUT HE SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE THINKING IN WASHINGTON WAS THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT "ABANDON THE RESISTANCE": HUMANITARIAN AID (AT LEAST) WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE.

8. MURRAY DEPARTED POST PRIOR TO PREPARATION OF THIS MESSAGE.

BRIGGS  
END OF MESSAGE

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